

Funding Opportunities: SEA Award Status:

New and Upcoming Funding Opportunities for Public Charter Schools

- This week, the U.S. Department of Education's Charter Schools Program (CSP) announced a \$116 million grant competition focused on starting up new, high-quality charter schools via a [State Education Agency \(SEA\) competition](#) for the first time since 2011. We anticipate awarding these SEA grants in September 2015.
- In the coming weeks, we will announce another grant competition to support the start-up of new charter schools via the "non-SEA" competition. These funds are for charter schools in states that don't have existing—or do not win new—SEA grants. We anticipate awarding these non-SEA grants in fall 2015—after September 2015.
- This timeline allows charter school operators that intend to open new schools in the 2016–17 school year to apply for federal start-up funding sufficiently in advance of those school openings—either via the SEA or the non-SEA grant competition. Even if a charter school operator's SEA plans to submit an SEA grant application this year, interested charter school operators in those states may wish to apply for a non-SEA grant in order to maximize their odds of receiving funding in advance of the 2016–17 school year.
- Please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/csp/index.html> to learn more.

More Details Below:

SEA Competition: This year's SEA competition is focused on supporting high-quality charter schools, public accountability and oversight for charter school authorizers, and educationally disadvantaged students. We also give a preference to states that have not previously received an SEA grant.

Non-SEA Competition: Later this summer, we will announce a competition to support new charter schools in states that do not have an existing SEA grant AND that do not win a new SEA grant this year. Charter schools in states that meet these parameters may receive grants for planning, program design, and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned.

Timing and Planning: We expect to award new SEA grants by September 30, 2015 and non-SEA grants by December 31, 2015. The non-SEA competition will open, however, before we award new SEA grants. As such, non-SEA applicants may, in some cases, submit applications

to the non-SEA competition and then not be eligible for those grants if their state is awarded an SEA grant.

This timeline, while not ideal, enables non-SEA awards to be made as early as possible, helping schools to properly plan for the 2016–17 school year. Charter schools that apply for a non-SEA grant in states that receive 2015 SEA grants will likely be able to repurpose significant parts of their applications for a subgrant application to their SEAs.

Am I Eligible to Apply for a Non-SEA Grant?

Charter school operators located in California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island or South Carolina (states that currently have SEA grants): Ineligible for a non-SEA grant, but may be eligible for an SEA subgrant. Please contact your SEA for more information.

Charter school operators located in every other state: You may be eligible to begin and submit an application for the non-SEA grant competition once it opens. Applicants will be ineligible to receive an award if their state receives a 2015 SEA grant, but may be eligible for an SEA subgrant.

Non-SEA awards: (Just announced, 8/24,2015) **Non-SEA Competition for Charter Schools Accepting** **Applications**

The U.S. Department of Education's Charter Schools Program (CSP) has just announced the Non-State Educational Agency (Non-SEA) grant competition, with an application deadline of October 6, 2015.

The CSP's Non-SEA Planning, Program Design, and Implementation competition (84.282B) provides grants directly to charter school developers so they can plan, design, and complete the initial implementation of their school. The Non-SEA Dissemination competition (84.282C) provides grants directly to existing public charter schools, which they can use to assist other schools in adapting the charter school program (or certain aspects of the charter schools' program) or to disseminate information about the charter school.

For FY 2016, the Notice includes one absolute priority; only applications that meet this priority will be considered for an award. This priority is: Supporting high-need students [students living in poverty]: projects that are designed to improve academic outcomes and learning

environments for students who are living in poverty and are served by schools with high concentrations of students living in poverty.

The Department plans to use up to \$4,000,000 for these competitions and estimates making between 18 and 22 awards. The estimated average size of awards is \$200,000 per year for up to three years for planning, program design, and initial implementation, or up to two years for dissemination (the Department is not bound by any estimates).

Applications are due by **October 6, 2014 at 4:30:00 p.m. EST, Washington DC time** and must be submitted through Grants.gov. The grant application is available at www.grants.gov; the easiest way to find it is to click on "Apply for Grants", "Download an Application Package", and search by CFDA number (84.282). That will give you the chance to download both the application itself, and the application package instructions.

Be aware that Grants.gov does not require registration to download and work on the application, but does require registration to submit

(<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>).

Registration is a multi-step process, and Grants.gov recommends allowing up to 4 weeks to complete the registration process, so we recommend you start as soon as possible. If

you are already registered, also be aware that SAM registration needs to be updated annually.

The Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 is found

at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-21/pdf/2015-20723.pdf>(link is external)

More information is available

at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charternonsea/applicant.html> and

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charternonsea-dissemination/index.html>

PRE-APPLICATION WEBINARS

A pre-application meeting will be held via webinar on Wednesday, August 26 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Washington, DC time) and on Wednesday, September 9, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Washington, DC time). For those interested in participating in the August 26th webinar, please use the following

link: <https://educateevents.webex.com/educateevents/onstage/g.php?d=744647301&t=a>. For those interested in participating the September 9 webinar, please use the following link:(link is external) <https://educateevents.webex.com/educateevents/onstage/g.php?d=744647301&t=a>. The password for each webinar is "nsea".